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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,712	10/19/2001	Yukio Morishige	016778-0437	6064

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

HASSANZADEH, PARVIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1763

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/981,712

Applicant(s)

MORISHIGE ET AL.

Examiner

Parviz Hassanzadeh

Art Unit

1763

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 July 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: see argument regarding claim 16.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 6-20.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 1-5.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

P. Hassanzadeh
Parviz Hassanzadeh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1763

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Regarding Restriction Requirement: the apparatus claim 6 requires the gas window conducting the laser light from the laser irradiator through the gas window wherein method claim 1 only requires the gas window blowing material gas to the surface of the substrate. Furthermore, claim 6 nw requires two laser irradiators as recited in claim 6.

Regarding the holder sucks the substrate in order to hold the substrate: as shown in Fig. 3 of Nonomiya (a reference submitted by the Applicants) the substrate 5 is hold by holder 19 coupled to a sucking unit 15. The Examiner requests that the Applicants provide English translation of the document if they disagree with the Examiner's opinion on Fig. 3. Similarly, Kawamura teach a sucking mechanism for holding a wafer so that the wafer faces downward as shown in Fig. 1.

Regarding carrier gas is helium: the type of the carrier used in the apparatus is considered process limitation rather than structural limitation of the claimed apparatus. Furthermore, Ito (JP 08-062827-A, a reference recited by the Applicants) disclose the carrier being an inert gas such as helium (abstract and paragraph 0019).

Regarding claim 16: the newly amended claim 16 requires further consideration and/or search.